Jim, Paul, Jim, Lucas

October 3, 1968

Mr. George W. Healy, Jr.
Executive Editor
The Times-Picayune
3800 Howard Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70140

Dear Mr. Healy:

The first sentence of your letter of October 1 is so reminiscent of the Warren Report I can better understand the news policies of the papers you edit.

Insofar as it relates to me, I affirm I have no recollection of ever having seen you or that we have met. With that immateriality disposed of, I repeat that your paper, the clear import of my letter of September 27, did, in fact, call me a liar. The date of issue is September 24. You used the words you attribute to Bringuier, a man of such irrationality and irresponsibility no one without intending the result would quote him in defamation.

It happens that on the very point on which he was quoted, I had already and more than adequately informed you. It is in the futile effort to inform you that I took the time required by the letters, not one word of which you, Bringuier, or anyone else, has, in the language of your inappropriate and not impartial headline, "refuted". The facts are as I represent them.

I further affirm your opinion that I do not "hold the monopoly on truth and virtue". I will go further and admit I am not infallible. However, what distinguishes me from others with whom the circumstances of life and my work sometimes associate me is that I do try to be truthful and do want to be virtuous.

If there is a note of regret inyyour statement that you have "never seen or spoken to" me, we can eliminate it in about a month, when I expect to be in New Orleans. For so auspicious an occasion, I could even leave at home the second head your paper attributes to me.

Meanwhile, I look forward to an honest effort on your part to diminish the damage your paper has compounded.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg